

# **Western Apache**

Western Apaches, who call themselves Indé (IN day) include the San Carlos (san KAR los), Tonto (TAHN toh) and White Mountain Apache Tribes. They have lived for centuries in the mountains of east central Arizona. Their Athapaskan language is closely related to that of Navajos, their neighbors in northeastern Arizona. Anthropologists believe that both groups migrated to the Southwest from the Athapaskan homeland in western Canada, arriving in Arizona sometime after A.D. 1400.

The Apaches' own stories of their creation are deeply rooted in their mountain homeland. They learned their way of life from the Gaan, the Mountain Spirit People, who live in caves hidden in rugged canyons. The Gaan shared their knowledge of the mountain plants and animals, conveyed ceremonial power to the Indé, and occasionally had to remind the Apache people of the proper way to live. These moral lessons taught by the Gaan are passed on today.

Prior to the 1880s, the Apaches traveled widely through their mountain homeland to take advantage of seasonal plant and animal resources. In the springtime they gathered mescal agave in the high desert regions, and then planted corn in the broad mountain valleys. During the summer months, they moved their camps to different areas as women gathered cactus fruits, grass seeds, acorns, and sunflower seeds. In the fall, they returned to harvest their crops, while the men set off to hunt deer, antelope, and turkeys. In the winter, if stored food reserves ran out, they sometimes raided neighboring O'odham, Navajo, Mexican and American communities to obtain cattle, horses, and other foods.

As American soldiers, miners, and ranchers invaded Apache lands in the 1850s and 1860s, relations worsened and the U.S. Army began a campaign to remove the Apaches from their homelands. By 1875, the Army relocated all Apaches to the San Carlos Reservation, an act that forever changed the Apaches' way of life. No longer able to move freely through the mountains, the people were forced to live on rationed foods and give up their reliance on their mountain resources.

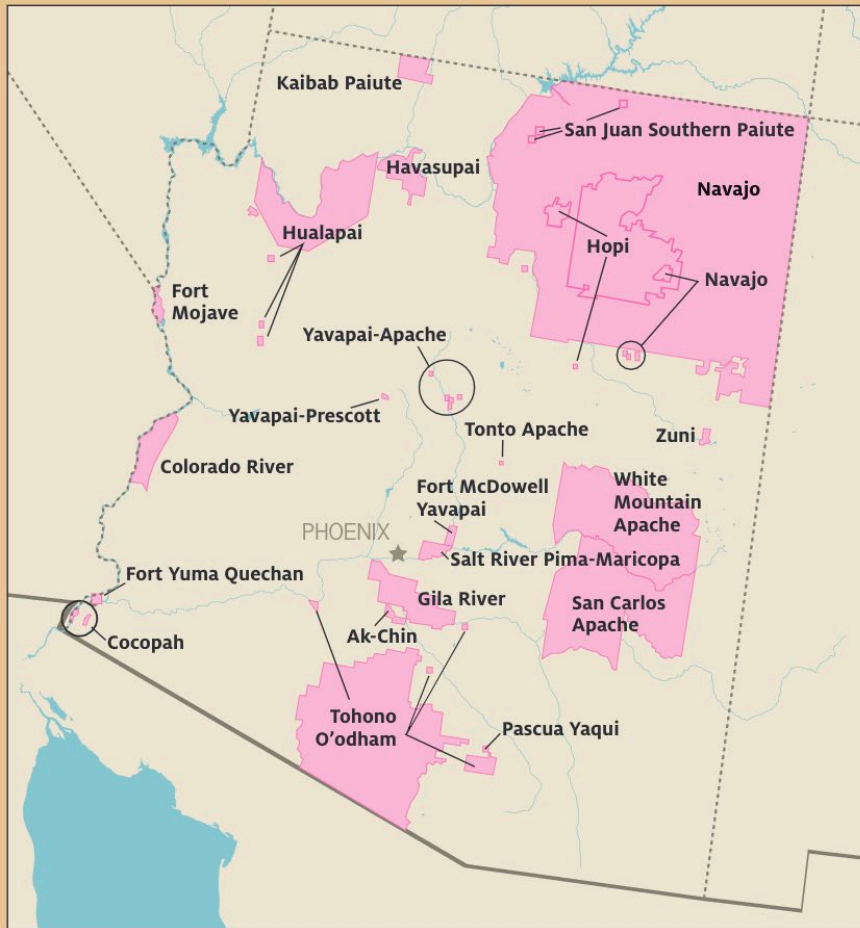
Today, Apaches have found new ways to live with their rich mountain resources. At San Carlos, cattle ranching is an important part of the economy that keeps the people in close touch with the land. Among White Mountain Apaches, the mountains provide jobs through recreational enterprises such as skiing, fishing, and camping, and lumber operations.



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### Arizona's 22 Federally Recognized Tribes

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Ak-Chin Indian Community      | Navajo Nation*                            |
| Cocopah Indian Tribe          | Pascua Yaqui Tribe                        |
| Colorado River Indian Tribes* | Pueblo of Zuni                            |
| Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation  | Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community |
| Fort Mojave Indian Tribe*     | San Carlos Apache Tribe                   |
| Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe       | San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe            |
| Gila River Indian Community   | Tohono O'odham Nation                     |
| Havasupai Tribe               | Tonto Apache Tribe                        |
| Hopi Tribe                    | White Mountain Apache Tribe               |
| Hualapai Tribe                | Yavapai-Apache Tribe                      |
| Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians | Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe             |

\*Reservation boundaries extend into neighboring states.



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